



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 MARCH 1966

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1. Indonesia

The army now has the situation in hand, but it is too early to assume that Sukarno is down for good. The people in Djakarta nevertheless are clearly with the military and the capital is reported quiet.

Suharto apparently made his move yesterday when it became clear that Sukarno planned to replace him with a pro-Communist and at the same time dismiss the West Java and Djakarta commanders. The three separately might have caved in. Threatened together, they finally found the nerve to force Sukarno down.

It still remains to be seen whether the army will move quickly to consolidate its position. The first signs look promising; the Communist Party has finally been banned

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A number of leftist cabinet ministers have been arrested.

Suharto has gone on the air to pledge that the army will not push the Indonesian revolution either to the right or to the "extreme left." He also stated that any "person, party, or organization" opposing his policies would be "crushed by the armed forces."

His other plans--particularly the re-ordering of the cabinet--are still unknown. No immediate and radical shifts in Indonesian foreign policy are likely, but relations with China will be further worsened.

The army has again found it necessary to play its actions as being taken to protect Sukarno. This leaves him still on the scene and Ambassador Green warns of the danger of a comeback. The ambassador concludes, however, that Sukarno's chances for fully regaining his old position are now remote.

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2. South Vietnam

There were further pro-Thi demonstrations today in his former I Corps area. This morning's protest crowd in Da Nang was at least twice as big as yesterday's, but so far none of the demonstrations has shown any signs of getting out of hand.

Although some student groups have apparently made protest speeches over the government radio in Hué, it cannot be confirmed they have "seized" this or other stations, as reported in the press.

Thi has returned to Da Nang. At the time of Thi's dismissal, Ky had promised him a short well-escorted visit and this is presumably it. We have as yet, however, no confirmation that he in fact went with Ky's permission.

The Buddhist leader Tam Chau today issued a statement in Saigon which, although not referring directly to Thi's dismissal, says that the generals who participated in the revolution against Diem "must have a place in the construction of the fatherland" and "must be restored to their military positions."

If this means what it appears to, and if Tam Chau is speaking for strong elements in the Buddhist hierarchy, this development could spell serious trouble for the Ky government. A representative of Tam Chau's rival Tri Quang was present when the statement was issued.

3. Nigeria

Disgruntled army officers and recently ousted politicians are beginning to stir again in the touchy northern region of Nigeria. Police and army units there have been put on alert for six days, but the reasons for this are not yet clear.

4. Guatemala

Peralta still has the army under control and now seems bent on letting Mendez' Revolutionary Party take over if it wins the election. Peralta's warnings of the danger of civil war and of US opposition to a coup apparently turned the majority of the high command in his favor. He is promising the military, however, that the high command will move against the Mendez regime if it finds evidence of Communist infiltration.

The latest unofficial election results give Mendez enough congressional seats to ensure his selection as president.

5. Panama

Panamanian leaders are saying that the treaty draft presented by the US in January is completely unacceptable.

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6. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch is putting the heat on again.

Bosch has told the government that his Dominican Revolutionary Party will not put up candidates for the elections because Garcia Godoy and the Peace Force are unable to bring rightist terrorism under control.

Bosch may yet change his mind but, for the short run at least, he probably sees this as a good way to press Garcia Godoy for a quick crackdown against the right and an overhaul of the police and military.

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7. Canada

The Canadian political scene has been badly shaken by the airing of two espionage scandals--one involving ministers of the former conservative government. Prime Minister Pearson has called for an independent political inquiry and challenged the opposition to try to bring him down if they are not satisfied with this solution.

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[REDACTED] the US Embassy does not consider the government in immediate danger. More revelations are expected to come out in the press, however, and this could bring a change in the situation sometime next week.

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